

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH CERTIFYING THAT: (i) THE  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
LONG BEACH AIRPORT TERMINAL AREA IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT NO. 37-03 (SCH# 200309112) HAS BEEN  
COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
AND STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES AND MAKING  
CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS RELATIVE  
THERE TO; (ii) ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING  
CONSIDERATIONS; AND (iii) ADOPTING A MITIGATION  
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach ("City") has proposed certain  
improvements to the existing terminal building and related facilities ("terminal") at the Long  
Beach Municipal Airport in order to accommodate recent increases in flight activity at the  
Airport consistent with the operational limitations of the City's Airport Noise Compatibility  
Ordinance ("Project");

WHEREAS, the Project includes a conceptual site plan review and  
construction or development of, among other things, holdrooms, concession area,  
passenger security area, baggage security area, baggage claim devices, restrooms, office  
space, ticketing facilities and airline gates totaling approximately 102,850 square feet  
together with aircraft parking positions, vehicular parking structure and traffic and  
pedestrian circulation areas;

WHEREAS, the City began an evaluation of the proposed project in  
September 2003 by issuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) followed by a thirty (30) day

1 comment period together with public scoping meetings held on October 11 and October 16,  
2 2003;

3 WHEREAS, recognizing the intense public interest in the proposed terminal  
4 improvements and related facilities, the City Council referred the scope of the project to the  
5 City's Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) in November 2003, after which the AAC held 15  
6 public meetings from November 2003 through July 2004 to consider recommendations on  
7 the scope of possible Airport improvements, and to advise the City Council on certain  
8 issues regarding the scope of the project, Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and  
9 technical studies to be prepared for inclusion in the EIR;

10 WHEREAS, on February 1 and February 8, 2005, the City Council  
11 considered the recommendations made by the AAC in connection with the terminal  
12 improvement project and directed that a second NOP be prepared and circulated for public  
13 comment;

14 WHEREAS, the second NOP was prepared and circulated between April 14,  
15 2005 and May 16, 2005, and further public scoping meetings were held on April 28 and  
16 May 7, 2005, after which a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared and  
17 circulated between November 7, 2005 and January 30, 2006, for an eighty-four (84) day  
18 public review and comment period;

19 WHEREAS, a series of public meetings to discuss the proposed Project, and  
20 receive comments related thereto, were held on November 29, 2005, December 3, 2005  
21 and December 5, 2005, and a joint study session between the Long Beach Planning  
22 Commission and the Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission was held on December  
23 15, 2005 to further discuss the proposed Project;

24 WHEREAS, implementation and construction of the Project constitutes a  
25 "project" as defined by CEQA, Public Resources Code sections 21000 *et seq.*, and the City  
26 is the Lead Agency for the Project under CEQA;

27 WHEREAS, it was determined during the initial processing of the Project that  
28 it could have potentially significant effects on the environment, requiring the preparation

1 of an EIR;

2 WHEREAS, the City prepared full and complete responses to the comments  
3 received on the DEIR and distributed the responses in accordance with Public Resources  
4 Code section 21092.5;

5 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the  
6 information and the comments to the DEIR and the responses thereto, and the Final  
7 Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") at a duly noticed Planning Commission meeting held  
8 on May 4, 2006, at which time evidence, both written and oral, was presented to and  
9 considered by the Planning Commission;

10 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has read and considered all  
11 environmental documentation comprising the FEIR, including the comments and the  
12 responses to comments and errata included in the FEIR, and has determined that the  
13 FEIR considers all potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project and is  
14 complete and adequate and fully complies with all requirements of CEQA;

15 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has evaluated and considered all  
16 significant impacts, mitigation measures, and project alternatives identified in the FEIR;

17 WHEREAS, CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines provide that no public  
18 agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been completed which  
19 has identified one or more significant effects of the project, unless the public agency makes  
20 written findings for each of the significant effects, accompanied by a statement of facts  
21 supporting each finding. The possible findings are: (i) Changes or alterations have been  
22 required in or incorporated into the project which avoid or substantially lessen the  
23 significant environmental effects as identified in the EIR; (ii) Such changes or alterations  
24 are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency, which can and should  
25 adopt them; or (iii) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations  
26 make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the EIR;

27 WHEREAS, CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines require that where the  
28 decision of a public agency allows the occurrence of significant environmental effects that

1 are identified in the EIR but are not mitigated to a level of insignificance, that the public  
2 agency state in writing the reasons to support its action based on the EIR and/or other  
3 information in the record; and

4 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City, in accordance with the provisions of  
5 CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, not to approve a project unless (i) all significant  
6 environmental impacts have been avoided or substantially lessened to the extent feasible,  
7 and (ii) any remaining unavoidable significant impacts are outweighed by specific  
8 economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project, and therefore  
9 considered "acceptable" under State CEQA Guidelines section 15093.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Long Beach  
11 does hereby find, determine and resolve:

12 Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated  
13 herein as though fully set forth.

14 Sec. 2. The FEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the  
15 State CEQA Guidelines.

16 Sec. 3. The FEIR, which reflects the Planning Commission's independent  
17 judgment and analysis, is hereby adopted, approved, and certified as complete and  
18 adequate under CEQA.

19 Sec. 4. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081 and State CEQA  
20 Guidelines section 15091, the Planning Commission has reviewed and hereby adopts the  
21 CEQA Findings and Statement of Facts as shown on the attached Exhibit "A" entitled  
22 "CEQA Findings, Facts in Support of Findings for Final Environmental Impact Report No.  
23 37-03," which document is incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.

24 Sec. 5. Although the FEIR identifies certain significant environmental effects  
25 that would result if the Project is approved, most environmental effects can feasibly be  
26 avoided or mitigated and will be avoided or mitigated by the imposition of mitigation  
27 measures included with the FEIR. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6,  
28 the Planning Commission has reviewed and hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and

1 Reporting Program ("MMRP") as shown on the attached Exhibit "B", which document is  
2 incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full, together with any adopted  
3 corrections or modifications thereto, and further finds that the mitigation measures  
4 identified in the FEIR are feasible, and specifically makes each mitigation measure a  
5 condition of project approval.

6           Sec. 6. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15091(e), the record of  
7 proceedings relating to this matter has been made available to the public at, among other  
8 places, the Department of Planning and Building, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, 7th Floor,  
9 Long Beach, California, and is, and has been, available for review during normal business  
10 hours.

11           Sec. 7. The information provided in the various staff reports submitted in  
12 connection with the Project, the corrections and modifications to the DEIR and FEIR made  
13 in response to comments which was not previously re-circulated, and the evidence  
14 presented in written and oral testimony at the public hearing do not represent significant  
15 new information so as to require re-circulation of the EIR pursuant to the Public Resources  
16 Code.

17           Sec. 8. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081(b) and Guidelines  
18 section 15093, the Planning Commission has balanced the benefits of the proposed  
19 Project against the unavoidable adverse impacts associated with Project related  
20 construction activities that will result in significant short-term air quality impacts for NO<sub>x</sub> and  
21 VOC and has adopted all feasible mitigation measures with respect to these impacts. The  
22 Planning Commission also has examined alternatives to the proposed Project, none of  
23 which both meet the Project objectives and is environmentally superior to the proposed  
24 Project. The Planning Commission, after balancing the specific economic, legal, social,  
25 technological and other benefits of the proposed Project, has determined that the  
26 unavoidable environmental risks and impacts identified above may be considered  
27 "acceptable" due to the following specific considerations which outweigh and override the  
28 unavoidable, potentially adverse environmental impacts of the proposed Project. Each of

1 the separate benefits of the proposed Project, as stated herein, is determined to be, unto  
2 itself, and independent of the other Project benefits, a basis for overriding all unavoidable  
3 adverse environmental impacts identified in the Findings and in the DEIR. Accordingly, the  
4 Planning Commission approves and adopts the following "Statement of Overriding  
5 Considerations," finding that:

- 6 (a) The Project will provide improved facilities to better enable the  
7 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to conduct the required security  
8 screening of passengers and baggage pursuant to the Aviation and  
9 Transportation Security Act.
- 10 (b) The Project will allow the incorporation of improvements to the air carrier  
11 ramp that will allow the electrification of the ground support equipment, which  
12 will result in a long-term reduction of air emissions.
- 13 (c) By constructing the necessary infrastructure at the Airport, the City will be  
14 assisting the airlines in their ability to comply with the South Coast Ground  
15 Service Equipment (GSE) MOU signed by the airlines and the California Air  
16 Resources Board.
- 17 (d) The Proposed Project provides an increased number of aircraft parking  
18 positions resulting in less congestion on the air carrier ramp and allowing  
19 aircraft to connect to GSE, thereby minimizing the amount of idling time while  
20 waiting for access to a gate. The increased number of aircraft parking  
21 positions and gates will also allow more efficient departures during peak  
22 hours. This will potentially reduce the number of delayed flights.
- 23 (e) The Proposed Project incorporates a voluntary land use compatibility  
24 program that would address existing and future land uses that are  
25 inconsistent with State noise standards.
- 26 (f) The Proposed Project will enable the Long Beach Airport to provide  
27 adequate facilities for the minimum number of flights and associated  
28 passenger levels consistent with the City's Airport Noise Compatibility

Ordinance.

- (g) The improvements will be designed to maintain and enhance the historic characteristics of the Airport Terminal Building by incorporating components of the original design and potentially restoring features, such as mosaic floor tiles.
- (h) The Proposed Project will enhance safety within the Terminal Building by relieving overcrowding. This will better enable the City of Long Beach to meet applicable local, State, and federal standards including the City's fire, building, and safety codes.
- (i) The Proposed Project will eliminate the dependence on offsite leased parking. The long-term availability of the leased parking is uncertain due to the month-to month lease for the offsite parking lot. Loss of this offsite parking will result in insufficient parking onsite, especially during peak travel periods. Without adequate parking there would be an increase in trips generated by the Airport and overall vehicle miles traveled. The onsite parking also provides an incremental benefit to local traffic circulation and long-term air quality.
- (j) Implementation of the Proposed Project allows the Airport to better meet operational needs by providing sufficient office space, meeting rooms, and a baggage hold room. These facilities allow staff from the airlines, TSA, and the Airport to conduct functions that need to be in the immediate terminal area or adjacent to the ramp.
- (k) The increased concession areas will provide the traveler with greater amenities at the Airport and would increase revenue to the City through additional lease areas.

Sec. 9. The Project as described and studied in the DEIR is the environmentally superior alternative in that it minimizes impacts to the environment to the maximum extent practicable while achieving all of the basic objectives of the Project.

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Long Beach, California 90802-4664  
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1                   Sec. 10. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by  
2 the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission Secretary shall certify to the vote  
3 adopting this resolution.

4                   I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Planning  
5 Commission of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, by  
6 the following vote:

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8           Ayes:           Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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12          Noes:           Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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14          Absent:       Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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